

## Living-Learning Communities announced for fall

by **Andrea Preininger**  
**Communications Intern**  
**Auxiliary Services**

**H**ow would you like to live where everyone has similar interests and is having fun too? Well, starting fall 2009 there will be six residence hall communities specifically created for students with similar interests to live and interact closely with one another.

These new living-learning options comprise a new program called ThinkBig@Tech that will be available to continuing residents, particularly aimed at sophomores and transfer students but open to all upper-classmen. Created through a partnership with the Office of Undergraduate Studies in the

Office of the Provost and Housing's Residence Life, these living-learning communities are designed to bring faculty and students together to pursue further conversations around topics beyond those discussed in the classroom.

ThinkBig@Tech was created to engage undergraduate students and faculty members in a small group environment while fostering a sense of community. Each group of approximately 35 students will participate in out-of-classroom programs in fun, informative settings.

The ThinkBig communities offer a variety of different topics which appeal to all kinds of students, regardless of major or background. The four new living-learning communities are:

- Technology and Urban Outdoor Adventures
- LEGO Robotics & Outreach Community
- Human Alteration: How far is too far?
- Humor and Innovation

The two well-established and highly successful living-learning communities, International House and Women, Science and Technology (WST), joined the ThinkBig initiative and will continue in fall 2009.

Studies show that students involved in ThinkBig living-learning programs are more connected socially, academically and more successful in college.

These programs work with a faculty advisor who in effect helps students be more comfortable approaching and talk-

ing with faculty. Being comfortable speaking and interacting closely with faculty is a major advantage in college and can help promote success.

Each ThinkBig program is housed on a specific residence hall floor and will offer a chance to have a once a week "coffee hour" with the faculty leader or participate in a bi-weekly activity with other participants and the faculty member. So that students will have an equal say about programs offered, residents will form an "advisory board" to work with the faculty leader. There will be activities on campus and off campus as well and transportation will be provided.

For more information, visit [www.thinkbig.gatech.edu](http://www.thinkbig.gatech.edu).

## Kaplan Test Prep in Student Center Commons

by **Andrea Preininger**

**I**f you haven't been to the Student Center Commons lately, take a minute and see the new retail operation - Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions - in the space formerly occupied by STA Travel.

Because of Georgia Tech's large population that goes on to graduate school, this center should be a great asset to Georgia Tech's students.

"Having a Kaplan Center in the Student Center was something that students expressed interest in, so we were really excited to be able to have it accessible to all students," said Rich Steele, director, Student Center.

Kaplan will accommodate 18 people in a classroom and most of the classes will be in the evening so that they do not conflict with Georgia Tech classes.

To introduce the Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions to Georgia Tech students, classes like admission seminars, practice tests, personal statement

workshops and other sample classes will be offered at various times throughout the semester.

Kaplan routinely offers class-

es for many different graduate school tests like the GRE, LSAT, and MCAT just to name a few.

Kaplan bases the classes offered on interest from the students; therefore, the more interest from students, then the more of that particular class that will be offered.

More than 50 percent of Georgia Tech undergraduate students go on to graduate school after graduation and the numbers are projected to increase.

"With the economy in a slump, more and more people consider graduate school as an option. The Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions is a great way to prepare for grad school and the fact that it's so convenient in the Student Center gives students the resources to be ready to do well on graduate school tests," Steele said.



**KAPLAN TEST PREP AND ADMISSIONS RIBBON CUTTING.** Kaplan opened in the Student Center Commons with a ribbon cutting, Wednesday, Feb. 11. Pictured are (l-r) Rich Steele, director, Student Center; Karen Bell (Kaplan), Rosalind R. Meyers, associate vice president, Auxiliary Services, Greg Pace (Kaplan) and Caryn Pochron (Kaplan).

# News Bulletin

**Melissa Moore**  
**Director of Communications**  
**Auxiliary Services**

**A**uxiliary Services held its 2nd Annual Auxiliary Services Loves Students Week, Feb. 9-13, reminding students what Auxiliary Services does and holding special events like Death by Chocolate at both dining halls.

Departments also gave away prizes and while no purchases were necessary, departments asked students to visit them to participate in random drawings. Here are the student winners by department.

## **BuzzCard**

- Kelly Armington, Biology, \$75 BuzzCard Bonus Deposit
- Christopher Jordan, Biology, \$50 BuzzCard Bonus Deposit
- Khrystyan Edens, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, \$25 BuzzCard Bonus Deposit
- Hernan Liatis, Computer Science, \$25 BuzzCard Bonus Deposit

## **GT Dining**

- Carolyn Cissna, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, \$25 GT



**Rosalind R. Meyers, associate vice president, Auxiliary Services, watches as students spin the Auxiliary Services Wheel for T-shirts, candy, toys and insulated lunch bags. More than 500 students spun the wheel for prizes Wednesday, Feb. 11, during Auxiliary Services Loves Students Week.**

## **Dining Gift Card**

- Daichi Fujioka, graduate student, Mechanical Engineering, \$25 GT Dining Gift Card
- John Larsh, Industrial Engineering, \$25 GT Dining Gift Card
- Travis Banks, Chemistry, \$25 GT Dining Gift Card
- Kelly Michaud, Mechanical Engineering, \$10 World of Wings (WOW) Gift Card
- Dieter Carreon-Heras, Mechanical Engineering, \$10 WOW Gift Card

## **Barnes & Noble @ GT**

- Bridgette Krauter, Industrial

## **Engineering, \$25 Gift Card**

- Lindsey Harrison, Civil and Environmental Engineering, \$25 Gift Card
- Kyle Smith, Management, \$25 Gift Card
- Evan Schneider, Environmental Engineering, \$25 Gift Card
- Christophe Garibal, Electrical & Computer Engineering, \$10 Gift Card
- Onu Okebie, Management, \$10 Gift Card

## **Vending**

- Lindsay Morgan, Civil & Environmental Engineering, \$50

**BuzzCard Bonus Deposit**  
- Akilesh Natarajan, Computer Science, \$25 BuzzCard Bonus Deposit

- Zhang Zhang, graduate student, Quantitative and Computational Finance, \$15 BuzzCard Bonus Deposit

## **Housing**

- Robin Prebor, Industrial Engineering, half spring semester rebate

## **Parking & Transportation**

- Spencer Backman, graduate student, Algorithms, Combinatorics, and Optimization, reserved parking
- Crystal Serreno, Industrial Engineering, reserved parking
- Chris Worley, Mechanical Engineering, motorcycle helmet

## **Stamps Health Services**

- Andres Salazar, Industrial Engineering, Teeth Cleaning Package
- Daniel Holmes, International Affairs, Teeth Whitening Package
- Paige Clayton, Industrial Engineering, electric toothbrush

## **Student Center**

- Kevin Ginther, Electrical Engineering, 1GB iPod Touch

# Stamps Health Services adds digital radiography

by **Andrea Preininger**

**S**tamps Health Services has fully implemented its digital radiography system, a process which has been three years in the making.

The full implementation process includes using the machine that takes digital scans, transmitting them electronically to a radiologist to read and having a picture archive, communication system as well as a radiographic information system.

"All major hospitals have what we have, which is pretty impressive for a university. As a matter of fact, we are the first

university in Georgia to have a fully implemented teleradiography system," said Jack Horner, supervisor and medical technologist, Laboratory and Radiography, Stamps Health Services.

Georgia Tech is a leader in new technologies and the use of digital radiography strengthens Georgia Tech's position. The benefits of having a fully implemented digital radiography system are speed, health benefits, economy and its eco-friendliness.

The speed is 80 percent faster than the previous speed and the technical aspect of the

radiography is simpler. By using digital radiography, less manual labor is needed, which is always a plus because the margin of error goes down and the efficiency goes up. This new system does exact measurements which makes the process easier, more precise, and generates better picture quality. A health benefit is that chemical or acetate films need not be used which is a benefit for the environment. The new system also exposes the patient to less radiation.

"We are really focused on the experience of the students first and foremost. With this new

technology we get to spend more time with students and give them that one-on-one attention from the doctor that they need and want," Horner said.

Another of the major benefits is that the x-rays are reviewed by two radiologists to make a confirming diagnosis.

By having two pairs of eyes look at the pictures, there is even less margin for error.

With digital radiography, Georgia Tech has increased its efficiency and credibility within the industry as well as helping students with more precise, quicker results.



# GT Dining promotes conservation programs

by Andrea Preininger

Not so many years ago people might have laughed if told that used vegetable oil could be the fuel powering planes, trains and automobiles. Today that is just one of the environmental programs that GT Dining is working to make a reality.

Take a look at some of the programs GT Dining does and is planning to do on the Georgia Tech campus to promote and protect the environment.

## Cooking Oil = Biodiesel Fuel

GT Dining collects its used cooking oil from all its kitchens, including both dining halls (Woodruff and Brittain) and Jackets featuring WOW (World of Wings), filters the used oil, making it cleaner and purer and then transports it off campus to be created into biodiesel fuel.

## Biodegradable Containers

Many GT Dining customers are "carry-out" customers and need containers to carry their food. This year GT Dining changed its soup cups, lids and Freshens cups to biodegradable

items. If these items end up in landfills, they will naturally and easily decompose in the earth.

GT Dining is already going a step further into the biodegradable realm. Plans are to remove any remaining Styrofoam cups from all GT Dining locations by next year.

"GT Dining managers are always trying to find the most sustainable ways to maintain our facilities. We all have taken Sustainability 101 & 201 through Sodexo and are dedicated to keeping up with new information on the topic," said Dori Martin, marketing manager, GT Dining.

## Recycled Paper Napkins

Made from recycled material, GT Dining's napkins are yet another sustainable program. Recycled napkins are in all GT Dining locations.

## Cardboard Recycling

Pandinis' customers need look no further than the top of the trash bins to recycle their cardboard boxes.

The idea with the specialized space on top of the trash bins is that students will realize that their cardboard can be recycled immediately and that it doesn't

always have to be thrown away.

## Composting

GT Dining is currently working with the Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling to bring a food composting program for both dining halls to campus fall 2009. This project would decrease waste and create fertilizer and land conditioning.

## Steam Cleaning

To help reduce greenhouse gases and conserve water, GT Dining deep cleans its floors, walls and other surfaces with a steam cleaner that requires little water and no chemicals.

## Organic and Locally Grown Food

Many conservation initiatives deal with consumer product recycling and better use of resources. GT Dining also implements conservation programs through the food itself. Starbucks, Seattle's Best, Jazzman's and Einsteins serve certified organic fair trade coffees.

Also, local food products account for 40 percent of the total dining hall food served.

## Student Collaborations

GT Dining listens to its customers and their ideas. It meets frequently with student groups

like Students Organizing for Sustainability (SOS) and is always looking to improve its vegetarian and vegan options.

## Earth Day

GT Dining works with the Georgia Tech Earth Day Committee.

This year at Georgia Tech's Earth Day, Friday, April 17, GT Dining will showcase some of its initiatives as well as bring some less known services, such as Destiny Produce, to campus.

"We are so excited to have Destiny Produce, which is local and organic produce, at Earth Day this year. It's good to buy local produce because it helps sustain the area where you live, and I think the produce tastes great!" Martin said.

GT Dining saves 3,000 gallons of water daily by eliminating trays in its dining halls and not having to wash the trays. The first 50 people to add this number with the number of fall 2009 living-learning communities on campus, the price of a summer parking permit, the faster percentage speed of digital radiography and e-mails the answer to Melissa Moore at [melissa.moore@gatech.edu](mailto:melissa.moore@gatech.edu) wins a T-shirt.

## 25% off GT Apparel

Want some new T-shirts and other clothing to wear on Spring Break?

If you said yes, now is the time to visit Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech. B&N@GT has lots of hot sale items.

Check out these discounts:

(1) Like many retailers, Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech has an aisle down the middle of the store conveniently positioned with sales. This "drive aisle," as the industry calls it, has merchandise listed at a 25 percent discount through April 29.

(2) For those of you in the know, you will "know" that Banner apparel is a higher end clothing line. B&N@GT has its Banner men's apparel at 25 percent off through April 29. (3) Red Shirt Brand is 25 percent off now through March 30.

(4) Gear T-shirts are \$9.99 for unisex and \$12.99 for women, March 9-30.

(5) Check out the "clearance" merchandise. All merchandise marked as clearance will be reduced an additional 25 percent between March 9-30.



Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech is sporting merchandise sales throughout the store on new and clearance items. These new Gear T-shirts are \$9.99 for unisex and \$12.99 for women's shirts, March 9-30.

# Housing shows residential hall rooms panoramically

by **Andrea Preininger**

**H**ave you ever been curious about how your residence hall room could look before you move into it? Well, now you can see!

Housing updated its website to include a 3-D, panoramic rendering of each residence hall room on campus. By using this website, students can see the approximate size of the room, the dimensions of the bed, wardrobe and any other piece of furniture in the room.

"We have worked hard with the photographer, the staff, and the students to try to create the best quality pictures. We knew that this was something students wanted, and we are happy to have it for them!" said Miles Edson, assistant director (Technology), Housing.

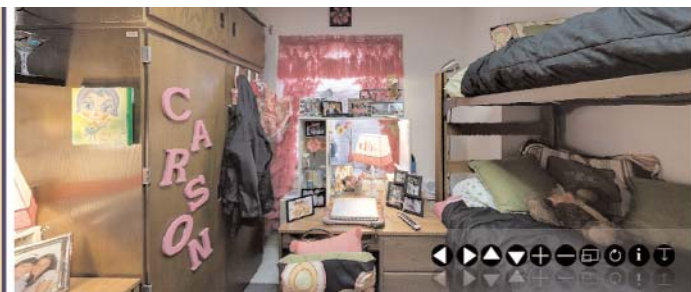
The website was created using a flash panorama player, which connects the pictures together in a cube and gives the room a more virtual and realistic feel. By using a six-picture cube-face panorama of the room, the pictures are not warped and can accurately

depict the size and dimensions of the room. We have seen no other school with technology like this on their housing website, and nor have we seen a housing website that shows the detail like the Georgia Tech Housing website.

The website is not only a place to see rooms before students choose to move in, but it is also helpful in determining the level that students want their beds to be lofted once moved in and whether students will have room to bring extra furniture like futons or storage bins.

"We created this website for students' convenience and to give a more personal and inviting experience. We picked actual student rooms to show so it really encompasses residence life," Edson added.

Housing has lots of plans for the future but its primary concern is listening to what students want and what could benefit them. The new website is a direct response to what students wanted and their voices were heard.



**PLAN YOUR RESIDENCE HALL ROOM BEFORE YOU MOVE IN.**

Housing upgraded its website, adding virtual room tours in each of its 42 buildings. Check it out at [www.housing.gatech.edu](http://www.housing.gatech.edu), Residence Hall Layouts.

## It's not too late (or early) to get a Parking Permit

by **Andrea Preininger**

**I**t's not too late to buy a parking permit! If you have been considering bringing your car on campus, now is the time to do it. As of March 1, the rate for the remainder of the year (March-July) was \$265. Parking rates are prorated on a weekly basis and every week the rate changes; the new rate can be found by calling Parking & Transportation (404-894-9645).

Looking to save gas, money and stress? Try carpooling. Georgia Tech offers an annual discount of \$250 towards a carpool parking permit.

Parking registration for the next school year begins officially online April 15 and continues through June 30. Now is a good time to look at lots most convenient for you.

Fiscal year annual parking permits are valid Aug. 1, 2009

through July 31, 2010; therefore, to get the most for your purchasing dollar, get your parking permit early.

If you already have a parking permit and want to switch to another lot, now is a good time to do that too. As the summer population is historically less than spring and fall semesters, most parking lots have availability during the summer semester. To change lots, people should take their current permit to the Parking Office; the fee for changing lots is \$10.

If you need to buy a summer permit, the week of May 11 is the time to do that and summer rates are \$144.

Visit Parking & Transportation, 828 West Peachtree Street, N. W. (across from Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech in Tech Square), Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

## The Oprah Winfrey Show Helps Georgia Tech Students Clean Up Their Messy Rooms

**W**hen The Oprah Winfrey Show put out the call to Atlanta colleges for the messiest dorm room, students at the Georgia Institute of Technology did not disappoint. After submitting videos to the The Oprah Winfrey Show highlighting their highly unorganized clutter, Ashley Bush and Kali Watson's dorm room in Hefner Residence Hall, and Kevin Smith's room in the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house,

were selected worthy recipients of a makeover by organization expert Peter Walsh. HGTV designers David Bromstad and Taniya Nayak pitched in to help create beautiful new spaces, along with Georgia Tech alumnus and carpenter Chip Wade.

Tune in for the amazing transformations scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 4 p.m. on The Oprah Winfrey Show, WSB-TV/Channel 2.